

THE
J U D G M E N T
O F

K. James the First,

A N D

King Charles the First,

AGAINST

Non-Resistance,

Discover'd by their own LETTERS,
and now offer'd to the Considera-
tion of Dr. Sacheverell and his Party.

L O N D O N ;

Printed for J. Baker at the Black Boy in
Pater-noster-Row. 1710.

Sach. 50/1(1)

JUDGMENT

R. James the First

AND

King Charles the First

AGAINST

Non-Resistance

Discovered by their own letters
and now offered to the Considera-
tion of Dr. Saurin and his Town.

LONDON



Printed for J. Sturges at the Blue Ball in
Fleet-Street. 1710.

P R E F A C E.

THE restless Endeavours of the modern Highfliers, to revive and assert the exploded Notions of Passive-Obedience, Non-resistance, and that Princes are Jure Divino, were never more strenuously exerted than now. This indeed might seem an unaccountable Undertaking in them, when we consider the perfect Tranquillity all Partys enjoy under her Majesty's auspicious Reign, if there were not reason to believe they have a Design which they wou'd not have the Publick appris'd of; for cou'd they imprint this foolish Notion, which they do not believe themselves, upon the minds of the People, it might be a good Preparative for the Reception of the Pretender, when they shall think proper to send for him: and how soon that may be, none can tell so well as themselves, for the Queen's Title and the present Administration they are quite sick of.

Tho these ridiculous Doctrines, calculated only by a Time-serving Clergy to enslave the Nation, have been answer'd and confuted a thousand times, and that from Scripture and Reason, both which these false Guides have abus'd; yet is their Clamour rather increas'd than allay'd, and they seem Case-harden'd against both. It may not be improper therefore to produce another Testimony against the Absurdity of these Opinions,

which may be of more weight with them than either of the former, and that is the Royal Authority of King James the First, in the following Letter writ by him to Dr. Abbot (afterwards Bishop of Sarum) in the Overal Convocation, as 'twas call'd. They know very well that Prince valu'd himself upon his Skill in Kingcraft, as his Masterpiece; and therefore certainly so wise a Prince, who so well understood Prerogative, must be allow'd to give the Casting Vote in this Dispute, which the Laudeans, and their Successors the Highfliers have so long endeavour'd to propagate. For the Peoples Satisfaction then, and their own Ease, let them for ever hereafter be silent; for What can the Man say that comes after the King?

To this it has been thought fit to add two Letters of his Successor King Charles the First to the distress'd Rochellers; by which it may be seen what was his Opinion also in the Case of Subjects resisting Oppression from their rightful Prince. The Matter is plain in it self, because it cannot be lawful to give or promise any Assistance to an unlawful Action; and therefore there is no need for a further Explanation of it, whatever our modern Highflying Casuists may say to avoid the Consequence.

Jan. 31. 17⁰⁰.

The

*The Judgment of King James the First,
and King Charles the First, against
Non-Resistance, &c.*

Good Doctor Abbot,

I Cannot abstain to give you my Judgment of your Proceedings in your Convocation, as you call it; and both as *Rex in solio*, and *unus Gregis in Ecclesia*, I am doubly concern'd. My Title to the Crown no body calls in question, but they that neither love you nor me; and you guess whom I mean. All that you and your Brethren have said of a King in possession (for that Word, I tell you, is no worse than that you make use of in your Canon) concerns not me at all; I am the next Heir, and the Crown is mine by all Rights you can name, but that of Conquest: and Mr. Solicitor has sufficiently express'd my own Thoughts concerning the nature of Kingship in general, and concerning the nature of it, *ut in mea persona*. And I believe you were all of his Opinion: At least, none of you said ought contrary to it, at the time he spake to you from me. But you know all of you, as I think, that my Reason of calling you together, was to give your Judgments how far a Christian and a Protestant King may concur to assist his Neighbours, to shake off their Obedience to their once Sovereign, upon

on the account of Oppression, Tyranny, or what else you like to name it. In the late Queen's time this Kingdom was very free in assisting the *Hollanders* both with Arms and Advice. And none of your Coat ever told me, that any scrupled about it in her Reign. Upon my coming to *England*, you may know that it came from some of your selves to raise Scruples about this Matter. And albeit I have often told my Mind concerning *Jus Regium in Subditos*, as in *May* last in the Star-chamber, upon the occasion of *Hales's* Pamphlet; yet I never took any notice of these Scruples, till the Affairs of *Spain* and *Holland* forc'd me to it. All my Neighbours call on me to concur in the Treaty between *Holland* and *Spain*; and the Honour of the Nation will not suffer the *Hollanders* to be abandon'd, especially after so much Mony and Men spent in their Quarrel. Therefore I was of the mind to call my Clergy together, to satisfy not so much me, as the World about us, of the Justness of my owning the *Hollanders* at this time. This I needed not have done; and you have forc'd me to say, I wish I had not. You have dip'd too deep in what all Kings reserve among the *Arcana Imperii*. And whatever *Aversion* you may profess against God's being the Author of Sin, you have stumbled upon the Threshold of that Opinion, in saying upon the Matter, that even TYRANNY is God's Authority, and shou'd be reverenc'd as such. If the King of *Spain* shou'd return to claim his old Pontifical Right to my Kingdom, you leave me to seek for others to fight for it: For you tell us upon the matter beforehand, his Authority is God's Authority, if he prevail. Mr. Doctor, I have no time to express my Mind farther in this Thorny Business.

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Business. I shall give you my Orders about it by Mr. Solicitor; and until then meddle no more in it, for they are Edg-Tools, or rather like that Weapon, that's said to cut with one Edg and cure with the other. I commit you to God's Protection, good Doctor Abbot, and rest

Your good Friend,

JAMES Rex.

To the Mayor, Sheriffs, Peers, and Burgessees
of the City of Rochell.

Gentlemen,

BE not discourag'd, tho my Fleet be return'd.
Hold out to the last; for I am resolv'd that my whole Fleet shall perish, rather than you be not reliev'd. For this effect I have order'd it to return back to your Coasts, and am sending several Ships to reinforce it. With the help of God the Success shall be happy for you.

At Westminster, May 19.
O. S. 1628.

Your good Friend,

CHARLES Rex.

The

The other Letter, directed as before, runs thus :

Gentlemen,

I Have been very much troubled to hear that my Fleet was upon the point of returning home, without obeying my Orders in supplying you with Provisions, cost what it will. I have commanded them to return to your Road, and not to come away until you are supply'd, or at least till they are reinforc'd, which I have order'd to be done with all Diligence. Assure your selves, that I shall never abandon you, and that I shall imploy the whole Power of my Kingdom for your Deliverance, until God assist me to obtain for you an assur'd Peace.

Given at our Palace at
Westminster, May

27. O/S. 1628.

Your good Friend,

CHARLES Rex.

FINIS.



